

MARVEL

#5

COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA

VENOM



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, IN THE PROCESS.

THE SYMBIOTE, SCARED AND WEAKENED, BONDED WITH LEE PRICE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER. THANKS TO HIS RANGER TRAINING, LEE CAN CONTROL THE SYMBIOTE, AND HAS USED IT TO TRY AND COURT THE FAVOR OF THE BLACK CAT, NEW YORK'S LATEST KINGPIN OF CRIME.

THOUGH HE TRIED TO KEEP THE FACT THAT HE HAS THE SYMBIOTE QUIET, TWO FBI AGENTS HAVE FIGURED OUT LEE'S SECRET AND MADE HIM AN OFFER: HE CAN EITHER WORK FOR THEM AS AN INFORMANT AND FEED THEM INTEL ON NEW YORK'S SUPERHUMANS, OR HE CAN GO TO PRISON.

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, ONE OF BLACK CAT'S LOYAL STOOGES, *THE SCORPION*, DOUBLE-CROSSED LEE AND ATTACKED HIM DURING A ROUTINE JOB. TO SAVE HIMSELF, LEE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRANSFORM INTO *VENOM*--REVEALING HIS SECRET TO THE WORLD!

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AH,
SWEET AND
SOUR CHICKEN.
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE
BAD, YOU'RE
GOOD.



NOW FOR
THE BEST PART OF
THE DAY: CYBER-STALKING
ALL MY OLD FRENEMIES
FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO
SEE HOW MUCH COOLER
I AM THAN
THEM.



HM,
SOCIAL JUSTICE
WARRIOR.
RACIST.
PICTURE
OF KIDS.
KIDS.
KIDS.
AW! WEDDING
PHOTOS! GOOD
FOR DAVE!
KIDS.
WAIT A
SECOND...



LIVE

YOU GOTTA
BE KIDDING
ME.

I HAVE
GOT TO STAY OFF
SOCIAL MEDIA.



I'LL CRACK
YOU OUT OF THAT
SUIT AND EAT YOU
LIKE AN OYSTER,
GARGAN.



DIE
SCREAMING,
GARGAN!
DIE--



THWIP



GAKI!



NO...



FLASH,
YOU'VE GOT SOME
SERIOUS 'SPLAINING
TO DO.



STAY
AWAY FROM
US!



YOW!



"SAVE ANY
LIVES TODAY,
SPIDEY?"



"OH, YEAH,
I SAVED
A PSYCHOTIC
MURDERER IN
A NUCLEAR-
POWERED
SCORPION
SUIT."



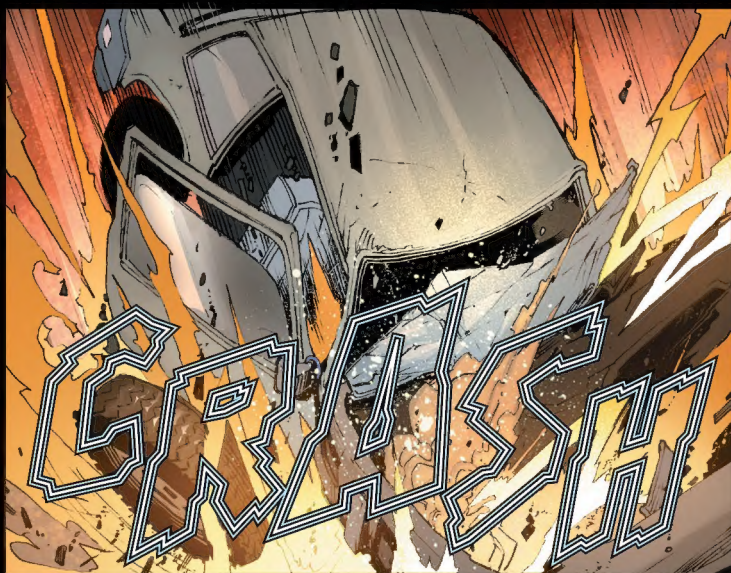
"JUST
DOING MY
PART."



WHAT THE
##%&^ DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING?



PLEASE,
HOLD YOUR
APPLAUSE.



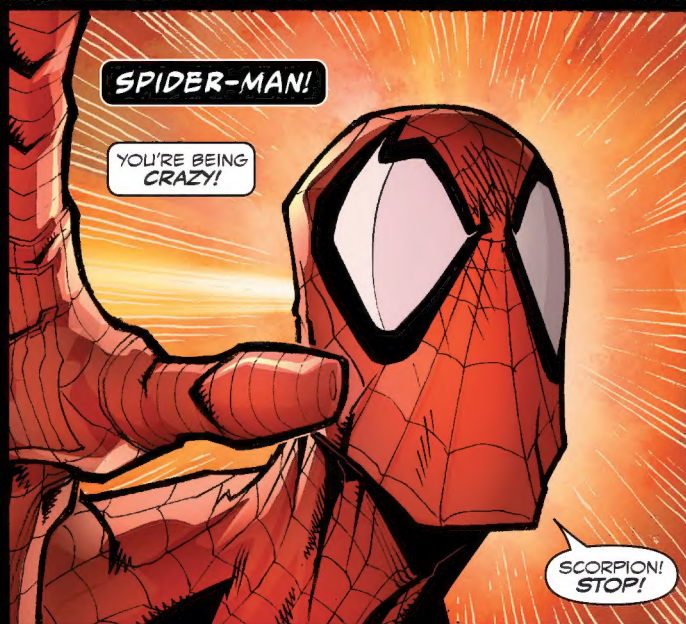
UH...
...THANKS.



I
WANT THAT
SUIT!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

SPIDER-MAN
IS HERE!
SPIDER-MAN!



SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'RE BEING
CRAZY!

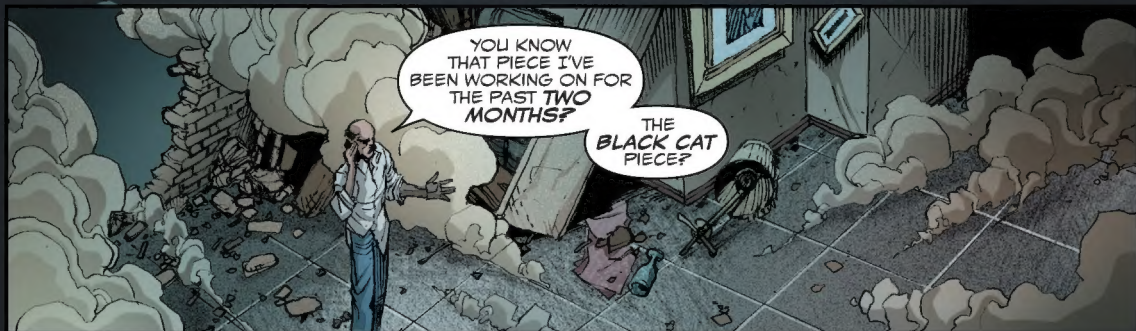
SCORPION!
STOP!



WE HAVE TO
GET OUT
OF HERE!

WE CAN'T HURT
SPIDER-MAN!





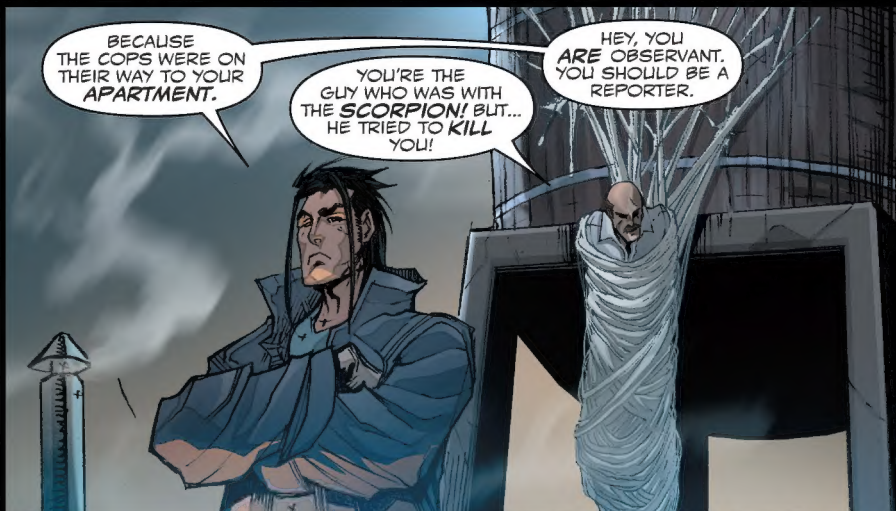


WHY DID YOU **BRING** ME HERE?

BECAUSE THE COPS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO YOUR **APARTMENT**.

YOU'RE THE GUY WHO WAS WITH THE **SCORPION**! BUT... HE TRIED TO **KILL** YOU!

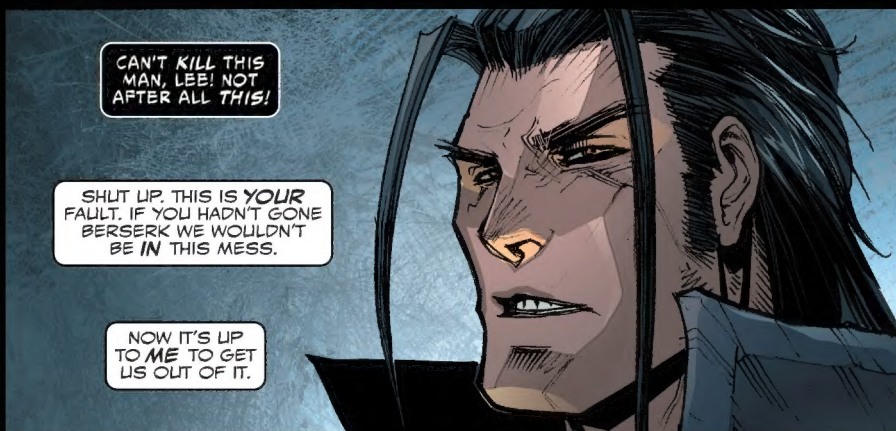
HEY, YOU **ARE** OBSERVANT. YOU SHOULD BE A REPORTER.



CAN'T KILL THIS MAN, LEE! NOT AFTER ALL THIS!

SHUT UP. THIS IS YOUR FAULT. IF YOU HADN'T GONE BERSERK WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS.

NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO GET US OUT OF IT.

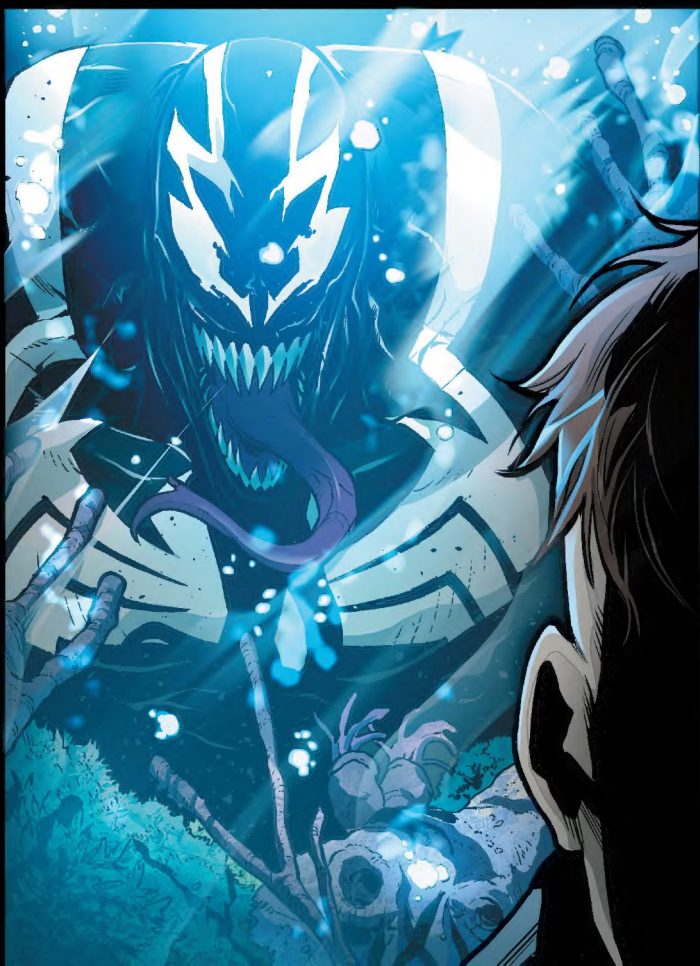


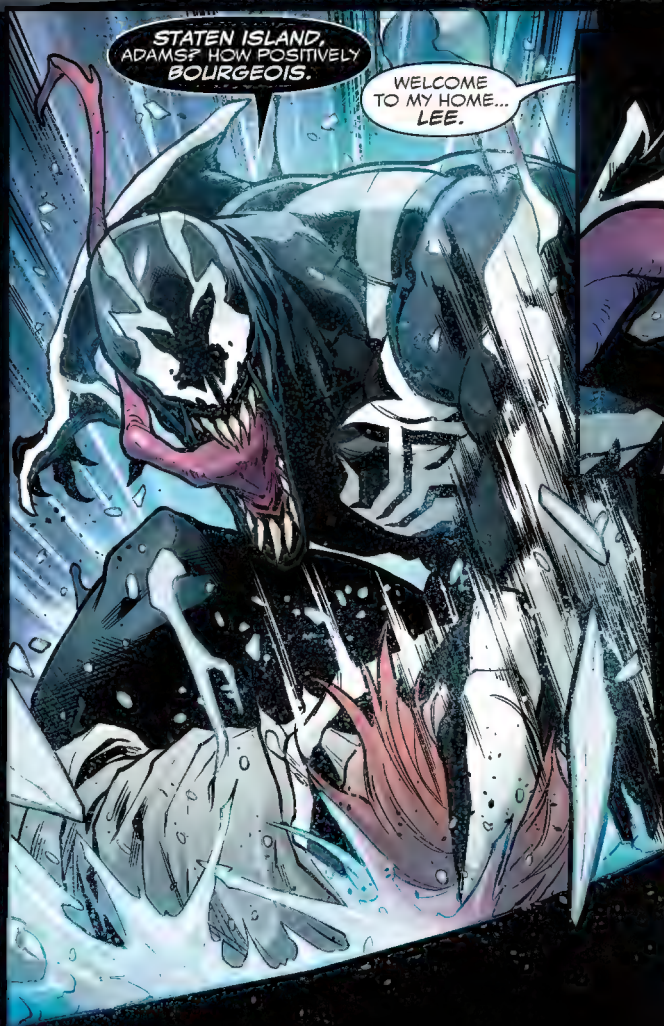
YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE **BLACK CAT**'S ORGANIZATION FOR MONTHS.



TELL ME **EVERYTHING**. STARTING WITH ADAMS' ADDRESS.

STATEN ISLAND.





STATEN ISLAND,
ADAMS? HOW POSITIVELY
BOURGEOIS.

WELCOME
TO MY HOME...
LEE.



I SEE YOU'VE SPOKEN
TO GARGAN,
THEN.

I HAVE.
AND BLACK
CAT. SO, IF YOU'RE
GOING TO KILL ME,
YOU MIGHT AS
WELL GET IT
OVER WITH.

YOU REALLY
UNDID A LOT OF WORK
I'D PUT INTO GETTING HER
TO TRUST ME, ADAMS. DIDN'T
EXPECT YOU'D SEND THE
SCORPION TO
KILL ME--



DIDN'T
EXPECT HIM
TO SCREW
IT UP.



SO,
SMART GUY,
WHAT'S YOUR
PLAN NOW?

YOU THINK THE
CAT'LL JUST **FORGET**
THAT IT WAS YOUR IDEA
TO SEND GARGAN ALONG
WITH ME? THINK SHE'S SO
DENSE THAT SHE WON'T BE
ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT
YOU MIGHT'VE ORDERED
HIM TO TRY AND TAKE
ME OUT, TOO?



I'VE LIED TO
HER ONCE, AND SHE'S
NEVER GOING TO TRUST ME
AGAIN. NOW THAT SHE KNOWS
I'VE BEEN KEEPING THIS
SYMBIOTE FROM HER,
SHE'LL BE GUNNING
FOR ME.

BUT YOUR HER
CONSIGLIERE
UNDERMINING HER,
RIGHT UNDER HER
NOSE?

IMAGINE
WHAT SHE'LL DO
TO YOU.

DON'T GET
ME WRONG, I'M
SURE YOU WERE JUST
LOOKING OUT FOR HER BEST
INTERESTS. YOU DON'T NEED
TO TELL ME, MAN. YOU SAW
ME AS A THREAT TO
HER OPERATION--

(SMART
MAN, BECAUSE
I WAS.)

--SO YOU
MOVED TO TAKE ME OUT.
TOOK IT UPON YOURSELF
TO USE ONE OF THE **BLACK**
CAT'S LOYAL AND VERY **EXPENSIVE**
SUPERHUMAN HELPERS TO PUT ME
DOWN. ALL WHILE KEEPING HER
IN THE DARK FOR THE SAKE
OF **PLAUSIBLE**
DENIABILITY.

LIKE I SAID,
YOU DON'T NEED
TO TELL ME.

BUT DO
YOU REALLY THINK
SHE'LL SEE IT
THAT WAY?



S-S-SHE WON'T. SH-SHE KNOWS
WH-WHERE MY LOYALTIES
LIE.

YOUR MOUTH
SAYS ONE THING
BUT YOUR STUTTER
S-S-S-SAYS
A-A-A-N-N-
NOTHER.

GET **WISE**,
ADAMS! YOU KNOW
BETTER THAN ANYONE THE
LENGTHS THE CAT WILL
GO TO HUNT DOWN
A RAT.



SO
WHAT ARE YOU
SUGGESTING?

YOU NEED
PROTECTION.

AND I CAN
BRING YOU TO ITS
FRONT DOOR.



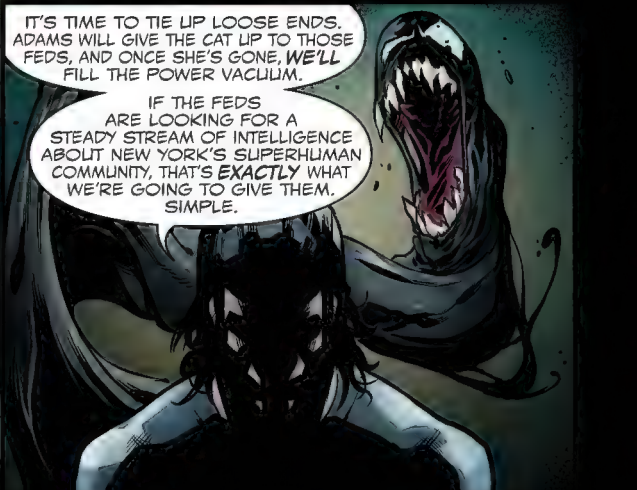
WHY WE DO THIS, LEE? DON'T UNDERSTAND.

BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY MOVE WE HAVE LEFT. I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO HAVE KEPT YOU A SECRET INDEFINITELY. YOU ##%*& THAT UP.



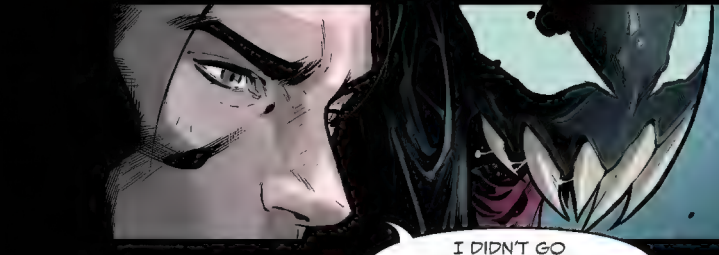
NO WAY I'M GOING OUT THERE INTO THE WILDERNESS, LIVING ON THE LAM, DOING WHATEVER IT IS THOSE SUPER CRIMINALS DO.

YOU TOOK AWAY MY SAFETY OF ANONYMITY, I'LL TAKE THE SAFETY OF POWER.



IT'S TIME TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS. ADAMS WILL GIVE THE CAT UP TO THOSE FEDS, AND ONCE SHE'S GONE, WE'LL FILL THE POWER VACUUM.

IF THE FEDS ARE LOOKING FOR A STEADY STREAM OF INTELLIGENCE ABOUT NEW YORK'S SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM. SIMPLE.



NO, LEE, THIS. WHY DO THIS AT ALL? SCHEMING AND CRIMES AND HURTING PEOPLE?



I DIDN'T GO LOOKING FOR TONIGHT'S DISASTER. DON'T PUT THIS ON ME. I DON'T LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO--

PEOPLE HURT YOU, LEE.



THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME.



YOU SHUT ME
UP IN HERE, LEE.
IN YOUR MIND, LOTS
OF OTHER THINGS
SHUT UP IN HERE,
I SEE.

"YOU HAD FRIENDS,
LEE! I'M LEARNING
THINGS ABOUT YOU."

"I HAD FRIENDS.
AND THEN I LEARNED
SOMETHING, TOO:
FRIENDS ARE A
LIABILITY."

"I ALSO LEARNED THAT, NO MATTER
HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, REAL
POWER IS IN STAYING HIDDEN.
ATTACKING INVISIBLY. KEEPING
YOUR ENEMIES GUESSING."

"I TRIED TO
TEACH YOU
THAT."



LEARNED
OTHER THINGS ABOUT
YOU, THOUGH.

THE TIME IN--
GRRRKKKK!

SHUT.
UP.

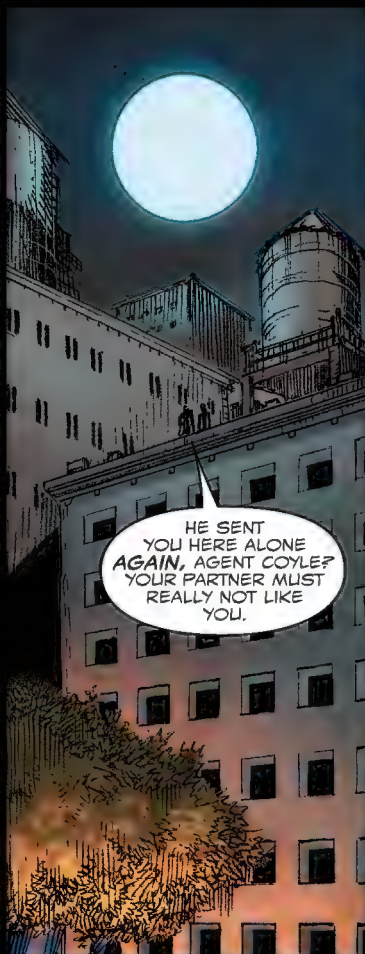


STAY OUT
OF MY MEMORIES
OR I'LL LOCK YOU
SOMEWHERE THAT'LL
DO **REAL**
DAMAGE.

ARE YOU...
TALKING TO
ME?

BE
QUIET,
ADAMS.

WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE.



HE SENT YOU HERE ALONE AGAIN, AGENT COYLE? YOUR PARTNER MUST REALLY NOT LIKE YOU.

YOU SEEN THIS, LEE? YOU'RE ON THE FACT CHANNEL. EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR **SECRET** NOW.

WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HOLD OVER YOU, SO IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN YOU CALLED. IT MADE WAMBAUGH **NERVOUS**. BUT ME? I FIGURE YOU COULD KILL US IN OUR BEDS. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CALL A **MEETING** TO DO IT.



SO YOU'RE THE **SMART** ONE.

AND TODAY YOU HIT THE **JACKPOT**.

YOU WANT A MAINLINE TO THE SUPERHUMAN CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD? I'VE GOT YOU THE GUY RUNNING THE SHOW FOR THE **BLACK CAT**.



HE'S GOING TO GIVE YOU THE LOCATION OF STOCKPILES OF CONTRABAND MATERIAL, AND NUMBERED ACCOUNTS THAT **DEFINITELY** PROVE THE CAT IS CONNECTED TO THEM.

THEN I AM GOING TO WALK AWAY, AND YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.



YOU'RE CERTAINLY RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. AFTER TONIGHT, I'LL **NEVER** SEE YOU AGAIN.



WHAT'S THIS?



THIS IS MY PET FEDERAL AGENT. DO YOU REALLY THINK THE CAT WOULD ALLOW HERSELF TO BE INVESTIGATED WITHOUT SOMEONE ON HER PAYROLL INVOLVED?

WHAT, YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A COINCIDENCE?



HOW DID YOU THINK GARGAN KNEW TO HAVE ANTI-SYMBIOTE TECH?

COYLE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR PARASITE I NEEDED.



AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS SCARED.



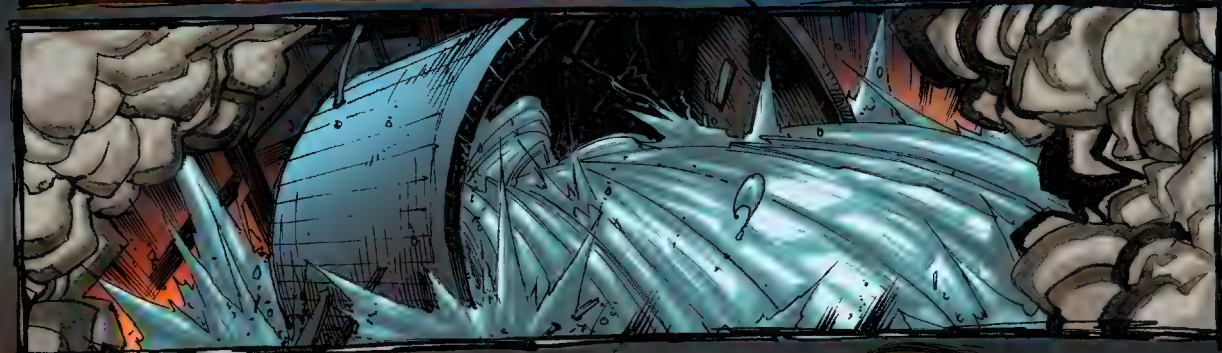
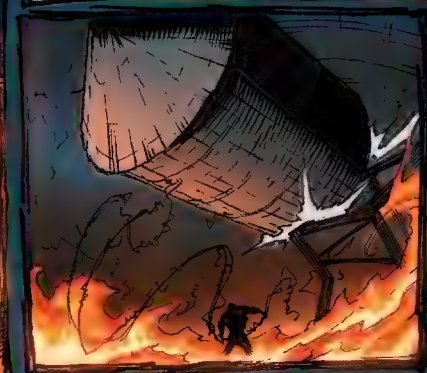
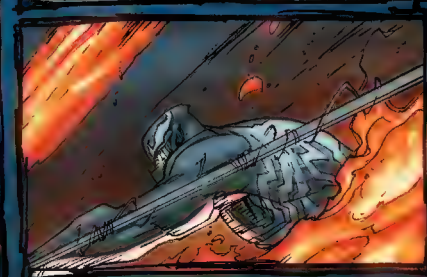
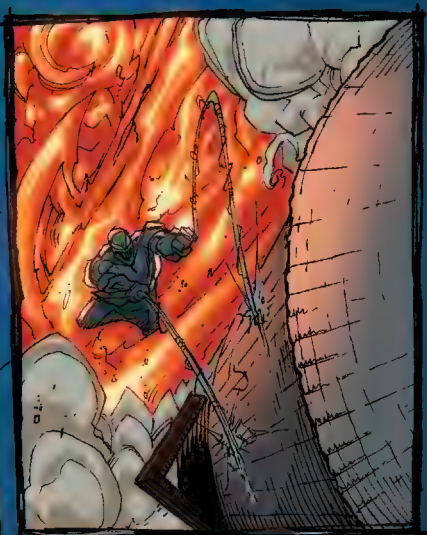
LEE!

INCENDIARY
ROUNDS.

BURNING!
BURNING!

DON'T
RUN! DON'T
FIGHT!

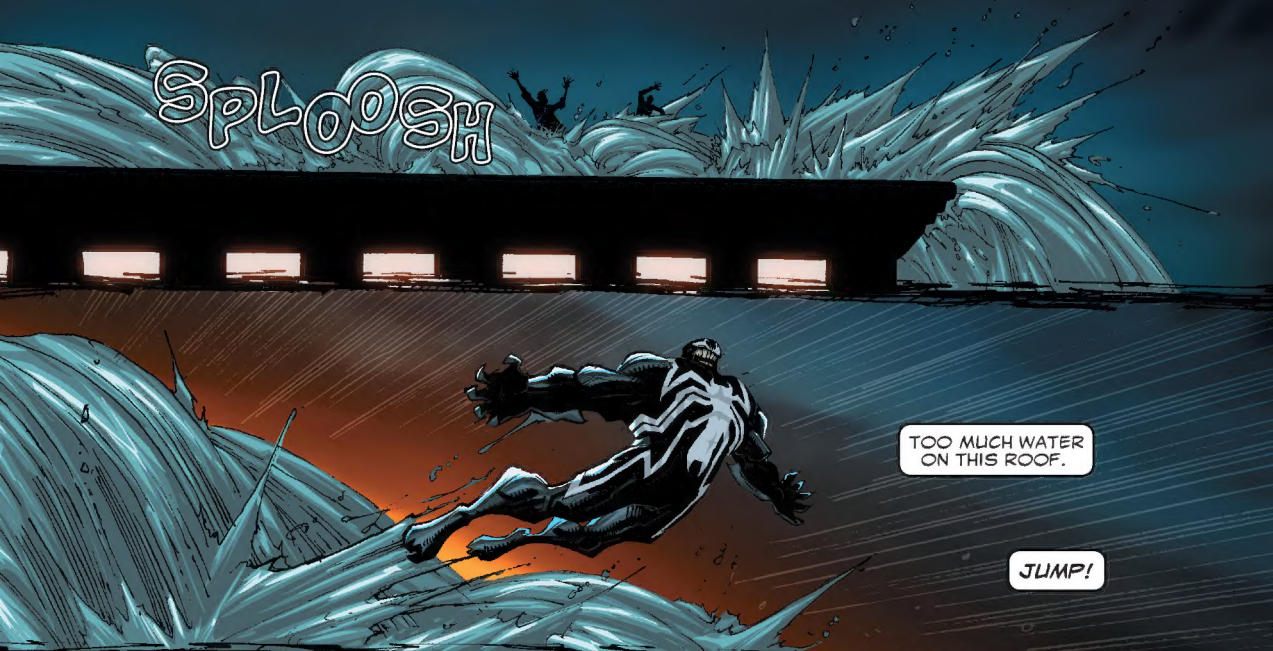
PANIC
AND WE
DIE!



THIS IS WHY
I SUGGESTED
THE OTHER
ROOFTOP.

THE
HELICOPTER
COULDN'T GET
IN CLOSE
ENOUGH.

SPLOOOSH



TOO MUCH WATER
ON THIS ROOF.

JUMP!

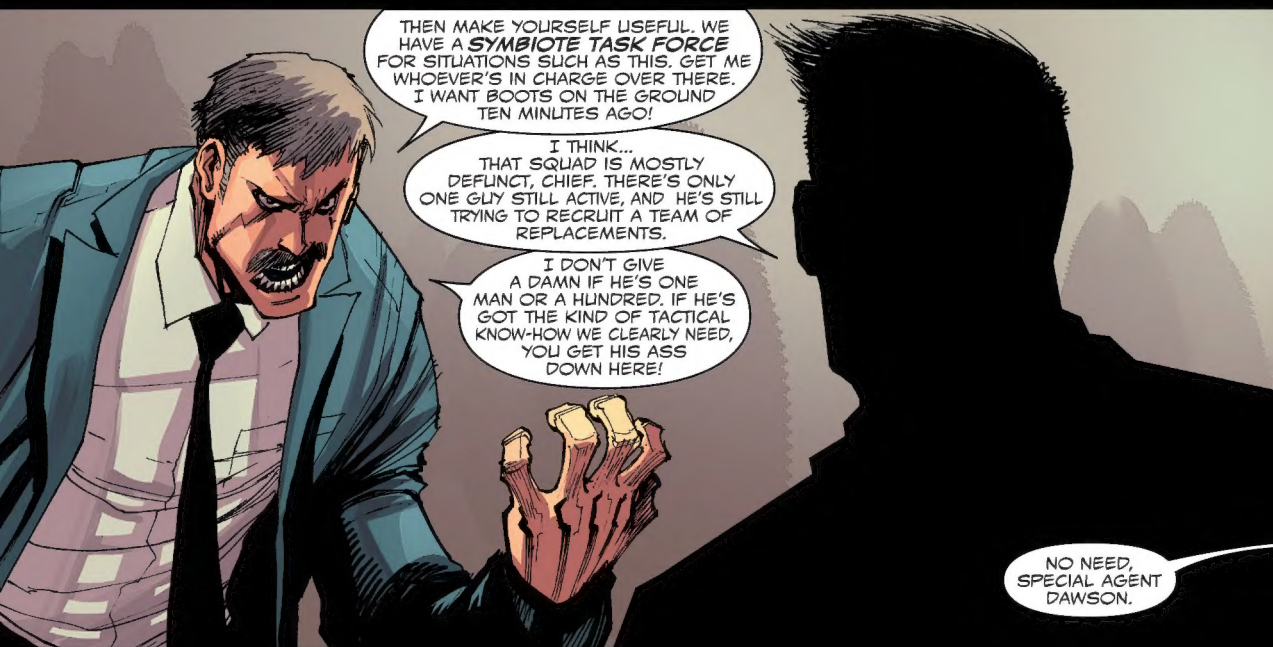
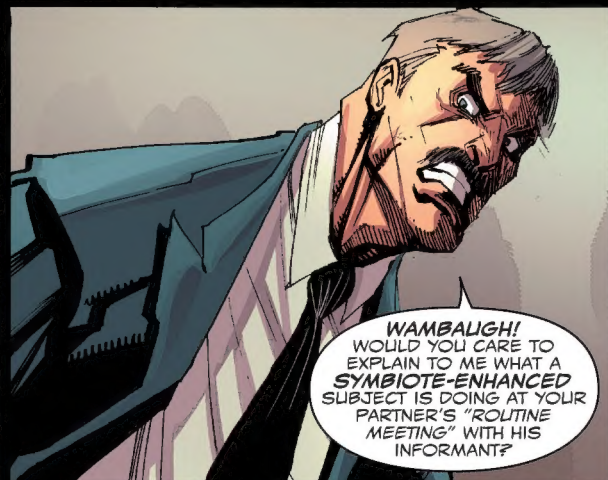



WHAT DO WE
DO? WHAT DO
WE DO?!

WOULD YOU
CALM DOWN?!



NYAARGH!





RUMOR
HAS IT THAT
A SYMBIOTE IS
LOOSE IN NEW
YORK.

SOMEBODY
CARE TO BRING
ME UP TO
SPEED?

**YOUR EYES DON'T DECEIVE YOU, READERS!
THIS IS NOT A TRICK!
NOT AN ILLUSION!
NOT A PARALLEL REALITY!
EDDIE BROCK IS BACK?!
DON'T MISS VENOM #6!**

NEXT:



ON SALE NEXT MONTH!